



# Tempe Public Art

---



## Steve Martino

*Plaza Reflector Lights, 1995*

Steel light fixtures

### Location:

6<sup>th</sup> Street Park  
521 S Mill Avenue  
west of City Hall

### Artist Website:

[www.SteveMartino.net](http://www.SteveMartino.net)

**Description:** The Plaza Reflector Lights are part of a greater project to improve the Plazita de Descanso. Steve Martino designed 13 steel light fixtures; he also designed the stand for the sundial that was on the plaza and is now located just west of City Hall and just north of Sixth Street. Art is integral to the layout and design of the mile long path, but, is most noticeably present in the form of imprints and tiles embedded in the concrete. As a member of the Moore/Swick design team, another artist developed a series of images of the native species that inhabited the area before the Roosevelt Dam changed the ecology of the river.

**Artist biography:** Landscape Architect Steve Martino, FASLA, has earned a national reputation for design excellence. His pioneering work with native plant material and the development of a desert derived aesthetic is widely recognized. His efforts are based on his intimate understanding of the region and on the underlying theme of humankind's relationship to the desert environment. The juxtaposition of human-made elements with natural ecological processes is a recurring theme.

Martino's projects have been recognized with more than 80 local, regional and national design awards, including seven National Design Awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. His work has been published nationally and internationally in more than 200 books and periodicals.

Martino has been a Phoenix native and resident since 1946 and studied architecture at Arizona State University. He is a Registered Landscape Architect in Arizona, California, Nevada and Texas. His project experience ranges from urban development and remote large-scale communities, to public art and private gardens. He has participated in public art projects for the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe.

**Funding:** This project was funded through the City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund with the support of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission.